

Jan 1858

Dear Mr May - I have had 1 more letter from Mr May

I had two letters from Mr May
today - one would have answered his purpose as well
- to tell me that things in New York & Boston are looking
up - that the banks are returning cash payments &
that he hopes shortly to be able to bring himself all
right. He says there would be no use in presenting the
bill for payment that I sent you, as the person at
whom it is made payable has succumbed in
the panic. He is most anxious that I should not
impute him on your side, which I have of course ~~neither~~
~~no~~ object in doing, nor desire to do. His style is far from
the order & appearance that disgraced his letters
to me from New York. I think him an honest man.
I think his intentions are good - but he has evidently
made a mistake in looking to Anti Slavery as a
profitable investment - for he talks constantly of
all he has lost by it, & how sorry he is he had anything
to do with it - & I doubt not he tells the truth. Here,
a worthless author who should get his book set up
in type & ^{prepare} only engravings ~~and~~ stereotypes on the
chance of a market, would be looked on as crazed.
This is what he has done. I don't think his book will
sell at all in England & if he sells the copy rights, &
for nothing (which he offers very low at £200) I would
not know what to do with them. My friend in writing
to say I have heard from him & that as I suppose
the note is of no value except as an acknowledgment

I must only wait for the chain of things coming round with him. They getting over our own again. My son thinks I was foolish in lending him the money, & is angry with him for ~~making~~ ^{asking me to say} it a condition that I should say nothing of him to my Boston friends, ~~that~~ ^{with the ground that he does so} ~~if~~ would do me no good in their opinion as to that effect.

The roll of prints & two copies of Long have come to hand. You say nothing of the price of Long or to whom I am indebted for them. I intended very soon to remit the money due you on the account between us. At that time I expected to be easy about money, as at the beginning of the year I got in my accounts. — There are a great many good things in Long's book — but it is very old & by itself together.

There was written two or three days ago, meantime I have got money. My son has gone out to get a draft in your favor for £33.5.1 the whole balance due to this day (Jan. 8, 58) This exactly squares with my ledger & I hope you will find it correct. Am I right in allowing 1 dollar each for Long? If it be more, let me know. I suppose the roll of prints & the books were got safe from the Howard's, but I welcomed them as if risen from the dead. I hope ~~if~~ you will send nothing for distribution of your friends who will allow it, I very much doubt whether they can do wisely in sending such costly packages, for I doubt if any one sends a pennyworth more to your friends on this account. My advice is disinterested for nobody enjoys the account but its contents & the paper connected with it so much as I do. I have a letter from Miss Estlin today from Lancaster, where she is on a visit with an old school fellow, wife of a Unitarian minister — she seems in good spirits. Yours ever Richd. D. Webb